

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 9, 2005, has been received and the Examiner's comments reviewed. Claim 25 has been amended and claim 50 has been added. Claims 33 and 49 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Claims 25-28, 30-32, 34-48, and 50 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – Addison et al.

The Office Action rejects claims 25-28, 30, 31 and 33-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Addison et al. (US 5,801,137). For the following reasons, the rejected claims would not have been obvious in view of this reference.

As amended, independent claim 25 recites, among other things, a solid block cleaning composition "dispensed from a mixer by extruding or casting." Addison et al. fail to sufficiently disclose or suggest the composition as presently claimed.

Addison et al. fail to teach or suggest the creation of a solid block cleaning composition as recited by claim 25 and discussed in the Specification. The presently claimed invention recites a solid block cleaning composition. This block is not formed through compression alone as in the case of a tablet, but through a heating and extrusion process. The hardening agent forms a matrix with the cleaning agents and other ingredients and "hardens to a solid form under ambient temperatures of about 30 to 50° C" (page 10, lines 32-33, page 11, line 1). The composition is mixed and then discharged from the mixing system by casting into a mold or other container or by extruding the mixture (page 17, lines 28-29).

In contrast, Addison et al. teach or suggest a detergent composition designed for use in automatic dishwasher machines (col. 1, line 11). This composition may be formulated as "powders, tablets, granulates, pastes, liquids and gels" (col. 19, lines 40-42). Addison et al. do not disclose making these powders, tablets, or granulates, by extrusion or casting. Addison et al. only disclose that "granular detergent compositions...can be made via a variety of methods including dry mixing, spray drying, agglomeration and granulation" (col. 20, lines 4-7). Discussion of the formation of a granular powder does not teach or disclose the formation of a

solid block through use of a hardening agent matrix and extrusion or casting. Again, there is no *prima facie* case of obviousness.

While Addison et al. mention polyethylene glycol, it is not mentioned as a hardening agent. Addison et al. disclose the use of propylene glycol as an organic polymeric compound used as a dispersant, anti-redeposition and soil suspension agent (col. 6 lines 29-32 and 59-61). In fact, Addison et al. do not teach or suggest use of any hardening agent, let alone a polypropylene glycol hardening agent with a molecular weight between 1,000 and 100,000. As there is no suggestion or motivation to employ a hardening agent comprising polyethylene glycol with a molecular weight of between 1,000 and 100,000 there is no *prima facie* case of obviousness.

In view of the above comments, one having ordinary skill in the art would not have received the suggestion to prepare a composition according to the present invention from the disclosure of Addison et al. For at least these reasons, independent claim 25 and its dependents are believed to be patentable over the teachings of Addison et al., and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections.

Claim 50, which has been added, is not obvious in view of this reference. Claim 50 recites a composition wherein the "temperature of the composition is increased to 50° C-150° C during formation." Addison et al. fail to teach or disclose this claim.

Addison et al. do not contain any reference to heating the composition to a specific temperature during formation. Addison et al. only mention the optimal temperature to be used in carrying out the machine dishwashing method (40° C-65° C, col. 20, lines 22-23). The presently claimed invention recites a composition "wherein the temperature of the composition is increased to 50° C-150° C during formation." As Addison et al. fail to mention the temperature of the composition, the presently claimed invention is not obvious in view of Addison et al.

In view of the above comments, notification of allowance of claim 50 is earnestly requested

Claim Rejection – Addison et al. in view of Rolando et al.

The Office Action rejects claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Addison et al. in view of Rolando et al. (5,876,514).

In reference to the rejection of claim 32, the combination of these two references also fails to suggest claim 32 is obvious. The arguments addressing the inapplicability of Addison et al. have been discussed. The shortcomings of Addison et al. are not remedied by Rolando et al.

Claim 32 depends from claim 25, which as amended recites a cleaning composition wherein the composition is provided in the form of a solid block formed by extruding or casting. In conclusion, either alone or in combination, these references cannot provide a basis for a § 103(a) rejection for claim 32.

In view of the above comments, withdrawal of these rejections are requested.

Double Patenting Rejection – US 6,387,870

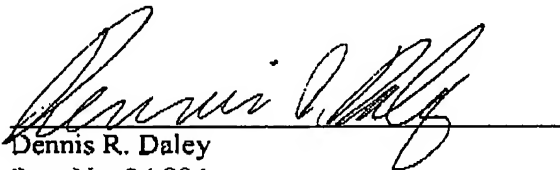
The Office Action rejects claims 25-28 and 30-49 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,387,870 (the '870 patent).

Without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejections, Applicants have submitted herewith a terminal disclaimer. For the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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